

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 were originally filed in this continuation prosecution application. In a preliminary amendment, claim 1-32 were cancelled, and claims 33-68 were added. In the Advisory Action, claims 40-45 and 54-62 were allowed, claims 51-53, 67 and 68 were objected to, and claims 33-39, 46-50, and 63-66* were rejected. In the current response, claims 51, 53, and 67 have been rewritten in independent form, and claims 33-39, 46-50, and 63-66 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 40-45, 51-62, 67, and 68 are pending, with claims 40, 51, 53, 54, 59, and 67 being independent claims.

Claims 51-53, 67, and 68 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have done so and, accordingly, respectfully submit that claims 51-53, 67, and 68 have been placed in condition of allowance.

In light of the foregoing, the prompt issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, she is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned.

* In the Advisory Action, claim 67 was identified as being both rejected and objected to. In a telephone conversation with the undersigned on August 17, 2004, the Examiner clarified that claim 67 is, in fact, only objected to and not rejected.

Application No.: 09/900,420
Amendment dated August 20, 2004
Reply to Advisory Action of June 29, 2004

Our check in the amount of \$678.00 covering the fee for a Petition for a Two-month Extension of Time and additional independent claims is enclosed. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 29622/30001A.

Respectfully submitted,

August 20, 2004

By: 

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